

**Abstract of th Disclosure**

Circuit arrangement for operating discharge lamps (LP), having the following features: A power factor correction device (PFC) provides an intermediate circuit voltage; an inverter (INV), which draws its power from the intermediate circuit voltage, outputs power to discharge lamps (LP). According to the invention, an oscillation of the power factor correction device (PFC) only takes place when it is started, by means of a starting device (TRG), by an oscillation of the inverter (INV). This provides cost-effective control of the sequences in the circuit arrangement.